

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A document integrated management apparatus which performs integrated management on plural documents stored in plural databases managed by controllers unique to the databases, respectively, comprising:

a linkage information management unit that stores and manages linkage information among documents stored in the plural databases or document sets each having one or more documents as documents related to each other, the linkage information including at least one identifier of a document set; and

a document information management unit that stores and manages document information on the document sets each having one or more documents as documents related to each other, the documents being stored in the plural databases, the document information including at least one identifier of a document set;

wherein the document information includes a history identifier identifying an original and update or revision of a document or document set and a status identifier identifying a status of original and update or revision of the document or document set,

wherein the linkage information and the document information are linked to each other when the identifier of document set included in the linkage information corresponds with the identifier of document set included in the document information and the linkage information includes links to the original and the update or revised document or document set based on the history identifier and status of the original, updated or revised document or document set based on the status identifier that identifies a process step associated with the document or document set, whether the update or revised document or document set is at least waiting for approval, generation start, and already approved.

2. (Original) The document integrated management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the respective controllers of the plural databases have control configurations based on different database management applications,

and wherein the document integrated management apparatus determines an access target database by searching for the document information and the linkage information, based on designation of document or document set or search data inputted in a common format from a client system, and outputs a processing command to the controller of the determined database.

3. (Previously Presented) The document integrated management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the linkage information includes the document set identifier, a document identifier for identification of a document or a document of document set linked to the document set, and a database identifier indicating a database holding the document or document set specified by the document identifier,

and wherein the document information includes the document set identifier and linkage information of the document set,

further wherein a document or document set corresponding to the document set identifier selected from the document information is selected from the linkage information, then an access target database is selected from the plural databases based on a database identifier in the linkage information of the selected document or document set, and the document identifier is outputted to the controller of selected database.

4. (Original) The document integrated management apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising an archive management unit that manages archive information that associates the database identifier with the corresponding respective database,

wherein the archive management unit specifies the access target database based on the database identifier selected based on the linkage information.

5. (Original) The document integrated management apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the archive information indicates linkage between the database identifier and any of document type information of a leaf document or a document set as a single document, and wherein if access target information is a leaf document, the document information management unit outputs a document identifier to designate the leaf document to the controller of the access target database, while if the access target information is a document set, obtains document information corresponding to the document set.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) The document integrated management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller of each of the plural databases has a converting unit that converts designation of document or document set or search data, inputted in a common format from a client system, into designation of document or document set or search data unique to the database.

8. (Currently Amended) A document integrated management method for performing integrated management on plural documents stored in plural databases managed by controllers unique to the databases, respectively, comprising the steps of:

storing linkage information among documents stored in the plural databases or document sets each having one or more documents as related documents, the linkage information including at least one identifier of a document set;

storing document information on the document sets each having one or more documents as related documents, the documents being stored in the plural databases, the document information including at least one identifier of a document set, wherein the document information includes a history identifier identifying an original and update or revision of a document or document set and a status identifier identifying a status of original or revision of the document or document set; and

linking the linkage information and the document information with each other when the identifier of document set included in the linkage information corresponds with the identifier of document set included in the document information and the linkage information includes links to the original and the updated or revised document or document set based on the history identifier and status of the updated or revised document or document set based on the status identifier that identifies a process step associated with the document or document set. ~~whether the update or revised document or document set is at least waiting for approval, generation start, and already approved.~~

9. (Currently Amended) A document integrated management method for performing integrated management on plural documents stored in plural databases managed by controllers unique to the databases, respectively, comprising the steps of:

selecting a document set identifier by searching for document information on document sets having one or more documents as related documents, the documents being stored in the plural databases, based on designation of document or document set or search data inputted in a common format from a client system, the document information including document set identifiers, history identifier for identifying an original and update or revision of a document or document set and a status identifier identifying a status of original and update or revision of the document or document set; and

selecting an access target database by searching linkage information among the documents stored in the plural databases or the document sets as one or more documents as related documents, corresponding to the selected document set identifier, wherein the linkage information includes document set identifiers and the linkage information includes links to the original and the updated or revised document or document set based on the history identifier and status of the updated or revised document or document set based on the status identifier that identifies a process step associated with the document or document set. ~~whether~~

~~the update or revised document or document set is at least waiting for approval, generation start, and already approved.~~

10. (Original) The document integrated management method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of extracting a document identifier of a document or document set from the linkage information and outputting the identifier to the controller of the access target database.

11. (Original) The document integrated management method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of searching archive information including the database identifier and document type information indicating a leaf document or a document set as a single document, linked to each other,

wherein if the access target information is a leaf document, a document identifier to designate the leaf document is outputted to the controller of the access target database, while if the access target information is a document set, document information corresponding to the document set is obtained.

12. (Original) The document integrated management method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of converting designation of document or document set or search data, inputted in a common format from a client system, into designation of document or document set or search data unique to the database.

13. (Currently Amended) A medium to provide a computer program to perform, on a computer system, document integrated management processing for integrated management on plural documents stored in plural databases managed by controllers unique to the databases, respectively, wherein the computer program comprising code for:

storing linkage information among documents stored in the plural databases or document sets each having one or more documents as related documents, the linkage information including at least one identifier of a document set;

storing document information on the document sets each having one or more documents as related documents, the documents being stored in the plural databases, the document information including at least one identifier of a document set, wherein the document information includes a history identifier identifying an original and update or revision of a document or document set and a status identifier identifying a status of original or revision of the document or document set; and

linking the linkage information and the document information with each other when the identifier of document set included in the linkage information corresponds with the identifier of document set included in the document information and the linkage information includes links to the original and the updated or revised document or document set based on the history identifier and status of the updated or revised document or document set based on the status identifier that identifies a process step associated with the document or document set, whether the update or revised document or document set is at least waiting for approval, generation start, and already approved.

14. (Currently Amended) A medium to provide a computer program to perform, on a computer system, document integrated management processing for integrated management on plural documents stored in plural databases managed by controllers respectively unique to the databases, wherein the computer program comprising code for:

selecting a document set identifier by searching document information on document sets having one or more documents as related documents, the documents stored in the plural databases, based on designation of document or document set or search data inputted in a common format from a client system, the document information including document set identifiers, history identifier for identifying an original and update or revision of a document or document set and a status identifier identifying a status of original and update or revision of the document or document set; and

selecting an access target database by searching linkage information among the documents stored in the plural databases or the document sets as one or more documents as related documents, corresponding to the selected document set identifier, wherein the linkage information includes document set identifiers and the linkage information includes links to the original and the updated or revised document or document set based on the history identifier and status of the updated or revised document or document set based on the status identifier that identifies a process step associated with the document or document set, whether the update or revised document or document set is at least waiting for approval, generation start, and already approved.